

Woodward (J. J.)



WAR DEPARTMENT,  
SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, D. C., August 20, 1884.*

In announcing to the Officers of the Medical Department the death of Joseph Janvier Woodward, Surgeon and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Army, which occurred near Philadelphia, Pa., August 17, 1884, the Surgeon General wishes to offer his tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased, whose distinguished career and valuable services, for a period of twenty-three years, have shed lustre on the Corps, and for whose untimely loss feelings of profound regret will be shared alike by his comrades in arms and by the profession at large.

Doctor Woodward was born in Philadelphia, Pa., October 30, 1833, and was educated at the Central High School of that city, graduating with honor as Bachelor of Arts in 1850, and receiving the degree of Master of Arts from the same institution in 1855.

He graduated in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, April, 1853; entered the Army as Assistant Surgeon, August 5, 1861; became Captain and Assistant Surgeon, July 28, 1866; Major and Surgeon, June 26, 1876. "For faithful and meritorious services during the War" he received the brevets of Captain, Major, and Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Army.

He was assigned to duty in this Office May 19, 1862, and from that date until the beginning of the illness which terminated in his death was intimately identified with its professional and scientific work.

While the valuable results of his life's labor are comprehended in a long list of miscellaneous publications, both profes-

sional and scientific, too familiar to the Corps to require individual mention, his greatest triumphs were won in the field of microscopical investigation in normal and pathological histology, and in his happy application of photomicrography to the purposes of science. In these pursuits he attained remarkable success, and achieved an enviable, world-wide reputation, leaving to science and medicine lessons of undoubted value and usefulness. Of his strictly professional work the medical portion of the Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion was the crowning achievement. In the second part of this work he developed the results of his careful investigations into the nature and pathology of the intestinal diseases which had proved so fatal in the late War. Here also he displayed his wonderful capacity for that minute and exhaustive research which forms so striking a feature of his writings.

As in the case of his co-laborer, Otis, he yields to other hands the honor of completing his labors.

In addition to his engrossing professional duties, his restless activity of mind led him to seek recreation in his favorite studies, Physics, Art and Philosophy.

Endowed with a retentive memory and of untiring industry, he acquired a vast store of information which he held available for use at will; fluent of speech, he took delight in the expression of his views and opinions both in social converse and in the arena of scientific debate.

His fund of knowledge, his strong convictions, his tenacity of opinion and his quick perception made him a controversialist of no low order.

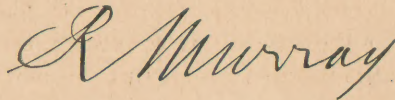
With such a record, it is needless to speak of his zeal, his ambition or his devotion to his profession, and especially to the reputation of the corps of which he was so bright an ornament.

Of a sensitive, highly strung, nervous organization, the confinement, anxiety and labor to which he was subjected in his attendance upon the late President Garfield during his long



illness, proved too much for a mind and body already overstrained by incessant labor, and precipitated the illness which finally terminated his life.

At the time of his death, Dr. Woodward was a member and Ex-President of the American Medical Association, a member and Ex-President of the Washington Philosophical Society, a member of the National Academy of Science, of the Association for the advancement of Science, of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Philadelphia. He was an honorary member of several American and foreign scientific, medical and microscopical societies, and the recipient of many distinguished honors from learned bodies in this country and abroad.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R. Murray". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent "R" and "M".

*Surgeon General, U. S. Army.*

